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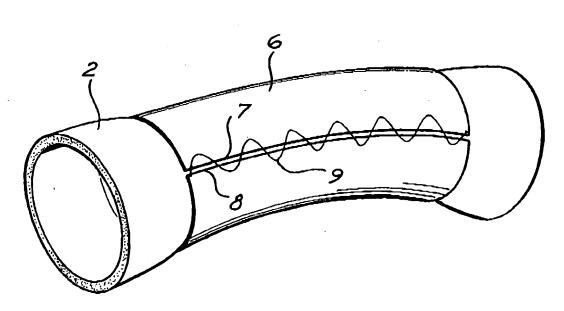
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(54) Title: A MITTIOD OF TREATING A STIFFENED BLOOD VESSEL



(57) Abstract: A method of treating a stiffened blood vessel (2) is disclosed. The method comprises at least substantially encasing a portion of the blood vessel (2) with an clastic membrane (6) formed of biocompatible material such the membrane (6) engages the blood vessel (2) to thereby reduce the diameter of the blood vessel (2).